Case 2963

Roeslerstammia Zeller, 1839 and *Acrolepiopsis* Gaedike, 1970 (Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed conservation by the designation of *Alucita erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787 as the type species of *Roeslerstammia*; and *A. erxlebella* and *Tinea imella* Hübner, [1813] (currently *Roeslerstammia erxlebella* and *Monopis imella*): proposed conservation of the specific names by the designation of a neotype for *A. erxlebella*

Peter Huemer

Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Naturwissenschaften, Feldstrasse 11a, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the accustomed usage and understanding of the names for two genera of micromoths with wide distributions, *Roeslerstammia* Zeller, 1839 (Palaearctic; family ROESLERSTAMMIIDAE) and *Acrolepiopsis* Gaedike, 1970 (worldwide; family ACROLEPIIDAE), by designating *Alucita erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787 as the type species of *Roeslerstammia*. At present *R. assectella* Zeller, 1839 is the valid type species of both *Roeslerstammia* and *Acrolepiopsis*. It is also proposed that the usage of the specific names of *R. erxlebella* and *Monopis imella* (Hübner, [1813]) (family TINEIDAE) should be conserved by setting aside the only known syntype of *R. erxlebella*, which is a specimen of *M. imella*, and replacing it with a neotype.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Lepidoptera; micromoths; *Roeslerstammia*; *Acrolepiopsis*; *Roeslerstammia erxlebella*; *Acrolepiopsis assectella*; *Monopis imella*; Palaearctic.

---

1. Fabricius (1787, p. 256) described *Alucita erxlebella* from an unstated number of specimens collected by Dr Schulz in the area of Göttingen, Germany. The identity of the species is undisputed and the name has been in common use for over 140 years. For example, in the last century it was used by Stainton (1854, p. 172), Herrich-Schaeffer ([1854], p. 137, pl. 51, fig. 355) and Heinemann (1870, p. 98), and more recently it has been referred to in many publications including those of Toll (1958, p. 89), Moriuti (1972, pp. 251–252), Zaguljaev (1981, pp. 418–419, figs. 395 (1, A), 396 (1, 2)) and Kyrki (1983, pp. 321–329, figs. 1–13). In the last two papers genitalia structures as well as larval chaetotaxy were described and figured and, mainly in the work of Kyrki, a comprehensive synonymy was also published.

2. I found recently that the Central European specimens referred to as '*erxlebella*' belong in two distinct and clearly separable species. It was therefore necessary to examine Fabricius's (1787) type material, originally in the Kiel Museum but now on indefinite loan to the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen. The single male syntype still extant is in bad condition, consisting only of the thorax, abdomen and hindwings. It is labelled (1) '*erxlebella*' [in Fabricius's handwriting], and (2) 'TYPE' [printed label].

Dissection of the genitalia revealed that this specimen, which corresponds with Fabricius's (1787) short description, actually belongs to a species of the family TINEIDAE, *Tinea imella* Hübner, [1813] (*Tinea* pl. 50, fig. 347), which is currently included in *Monopis* Hübner, 1826.

3. Acceptance of the syntype of *Alucita erxlebella* as the name-bearing type would result in the specific names *erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787 and *imella* Hübner, [1813] becoming synonyms. The well known species *imella* would be called *erxlebella*, and *erxlebella* as currently understood would be called *fuscocuprella* Haworth, [1828] (p. 569, published as *Tinea fuscocuprella*), an unnecessary replacement name for *erxlebella* and the next available synonym. To stabilise the current understanding and usage of the specific names *erxlebella* and *imella* I propose that a neotype for *erxlebella* be designated. This is the male pinned specimen labelled 'WÜRTTEMBERG Grossbottwar Wunnenstein 22.5.69 L. Süssner', and its genitalia on a slide labelled 'TIN 58 ♂ P. Huemer', deposited in the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen.

4. Zeller (1839, col. 202) described the genus *Roeslerstammia* and placed the five included species in two subgenera. The nominotypical subgenus included four species, among them *Roeslerstammia assectella* Zeller, 1839 (col. 203). The second subgenus was named *Chrysitella* Zeller, 1839 (col. 203) and contained the single nominal species *R. erxlebeniella* Zeller, 1839, with *Alucita erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787 and *Oecophora chrysitella* Treitschke, 1833 included as synonyms. The name *erxlebeniella* is invalid; it was either an unjustified emendation or an unnecessary replacement for *erxlebella* Fabricius.

5. Stainton (1854) considered that only the one species *Alucita erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787 was included in the genus *Roeslerstammia*. Fletcher (1928, p. 19; see also 1929, p. 195) designated *A. erxlebella* as the type species of *Roeslerstammia*. This nominal species was not among those originally included in the nominotypical subgenus of *Roeslerstammia* and the designation is therefore invalid (Articles 47a, 61b and 69a of the Code). Nevertheless it has been followed by most subsequent authors and Kloet & Hincks (1945, p. 134), Friese (1960, p. 24), Moriuti (1972, p. 250), Nye (in Koçak, 1981, pp. 13, 19–20), Kyrki (1983, p. 322), Gaedike (1989, p. 254) and Nye & Fletcher (1991, p. 269), for example, have cited, albeit incorrectly, *erxlebella* as the type species of the genus. Gaedike (1989) noted that Fletcher's (1928) designation was in accord with the concept of the genus at the time. The same species is the type by monotypy of *Chrysitella* Zeller, 1839 (para. 4 above); to my knowledge the latter name has never been used.

6. Koçak (1980, p. 22; 1981, p. 20) recognised that the type species of a genus or subgenus must be designated from among the originally included species. He cited *Roeslerstammia assectella* Zeller, 1839 as the type of *Roeslerstammia*, incorrectly attributing the designation to Zeller (1853). Koçak's designation is valid (Article 69a(iv) of the Code) but, as Koçak himself acknowledged, Gaedike (1970, p. 32) had already designated the same species as the type of his new genus *Acrolepiopsis*. Koçak's (1980) type designation, which rendered the name *Acrolepiopsis* a junior objective synonym of *Roeslerstammia*, has not been recognized by subsequent authors. Both the names *Roeslerstammia* and *Acrolepiopsis* have been used to refer to distinct genera (see, for example, Moriuti, 1972; Bradley, 1972, pp. 13–14; Zaguljaev, 1981, pp. 418–419; and Agassiz, 1996, pp. 106, 110) and to conserve their usage I propose that Koçak's (1980) type designation for *Roeslerstammia* be set aside and

Alucita erxlebella Fabricius, 1787 be designated as the type. This designation will render the unused name *Chrysitella* Zeller, 1839 an objective synonym of *Roeslerstammia*.

7. Gaedike (1970, pp. 32–50, pls. 9–13, figs. 60–96) based his new genus *Acrolepiopsis* (family ACROLEPIIDAE) on 11 nominal species which he considered to be valid, a number of which had previously been included in *Acrolepia* Curtis, 1838. Zeller (1839) based *R. assectella*, the species designated by Gaedike (1970) as the type of *Acrolepiopsis*, on 12 specimens from Berlin and Frankfurt. These are now included in the Zeller material in the Walsingham collection (collection label 1910/427) in the Natural History Museum, London. A lectotype, which lacks the abdomen, has been selected and is denoted by the usual circular, purple-edged label but Gaedike (in litt., November 1996) considers that the designation has never been published. The identity of *assectella* is undisputed.

8. The family-group name ROESLERSTAMMIIDAE was first used by Bruand (1850, p. 43, as 'Tribus Röslertammidae' [sic]). However, the family was not considered as valid until recently, when Kyrki (1983, p. 321) considered the name ROESLERSTAMMIIDAE to be a senior synonym of AMPHITHERIDAE Meyrick, 1913. Prior to this *Roeslerstammia* was included in various families such as ADELIIDAE, INCURVARIIDAE, ACROLEPIIDAE, TINEIDAE, PLUTELLIDAE and YPONOMEUTIDAE.

9. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous type fixations:
  (a) for the nominal species *Alucita erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787 and to designate as neotype the male specimen in the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, referred to in para. 3 above;
  (b) for the nominal genus *Roeslerstammia* Zeller, 1839 and to designate *Alucita erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787 as the type species;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  (a) *Roeslerstammia* Zeller, 1839 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1)(b) above *Alucita erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787;
  (b) *Acrolepiopsis* Gaedike, 1970 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Roeslerstammia assectella* Zeller, 1839;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  (a) *erxlebella* Fabricius, 1787, as published in the binomen *Alucita erxlebella* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1)(a) above (specific name of the type species of *Roeslerstammia* Zeller, 1839);
  (b) *assectella* Zeller, 1839, as published in the binomen *Roeslerstammia assectella* (specific name of the type species of *Acrolepiopsis* Gaedike, 1970);
  (c) *imella* Hübner, [1813], as published in the binomen *Tinea imella*;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Chrysitella* Zeller, 1839 (an objective synonym of *Roeslerstammia* Zeller, 1839).

References

Agassiz, D.J.L. 1996. Yponomeutidae (including Roeslerstammiidae). Pp. 39–114 *in* Maitland Emmet, A. (Ed.), *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, vol. 3. 452 pp. Harley Books, Colchester, U.K.

Bradley, J.D. (in Bradley, J.D., Fletcher, D.S. & Whalley, P.E.S.). 1972. *Kloet and Hincks. A check list of British insects*, Ed. 2 (Revised), part 2 (Lepidoptera). viii, 153 pp. (Handbooks for the identification of British insects, vol. 11, part 2). Royal Entomological Society of London, London.

Bruand, C.T. 1850. Catalogue systématique et synonymique des lépidoptères du Departement du Doubs. Tinéides. *Mémoires de la Société d'Émulation du Doubs*, **3**(5–6): 23–68.

Fabricius, J.C. 1787. *Mantissa insectorum*, vol. 2. 382 pp. Hafniae.

Fletcher, T.B. 1928. *Catalogue of Indian insects*, part 17 (Yponomeutidae). ii, 26 pp. Government of India, Calcutta.

Fletcher, T.B. 1929. A list of the generic names used for Microlepidoptera. *Memoirs of the Department of Agriculture in India* (Entomology), **11**: 1–244.

Friese, G. 1960. Revision der paläarktischen Yponomeutidae unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Genitalien (Lepidoptera). *Beiträge zur Entomologie*, **10**(1–2): 1–131.

Gaedike, R. 1970. Revision der paläarktischen Acrolepiidae (Lepidoptera). *Entomologische Abhandlungen. Staatliche Museum für Tierkunde in Dresden*, **38**(1): 1–54.

Gaedike, R. 1989. Zu einigen Bemerkungen von Koçak (1982) zur Leraut-Liste (1980) (Lepidoptera: Epermeniidae, Acrolepiidae). *Nota Lepidopterologica*, **11**(4): 251–255.

Haworth, A.H. [1828]. *Lepidoptera Britannica*, vol. 4. Pp. 512–609. London.

Heinemann, H. 1870. *Die Schmetterlinge Deutschlands und der Schweiz*, Abt. 2 (Kleinschmetterlinge), Band 2 (Die Motten und Federmotten), Heft 1. 388 pp. Braunschweig.

Herrich-Schäffer, G.A.W. [1854]. *Systematische Bearbeitung der Schmetterlinge von Europa, zugleich als Text, Revision und Supplement zu Jakob Hübners Sammlung europäischer Schmetterlinge. Die Schaben und Federmotten*, vol. 5. Pp. 73–224. Regensburg.

Hübner, J. [1813]. *Sammlung europäischer Schmetterlinge*. Lepidoptera, part 8; *Tinea*, part 4. Augsburg.

Kloet, G.S. & Hincks, W.D. 1945. *A check list of British insects*. lix, 483 pp. Authors, Stockport.

Koçak, A.Ö. 1980. Some notes on the nomenclature of Lepidoptera. *Communications de la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université d'Ankara*, (C, Zoologie)**24**(2): 7–25.

Koçak, A.Ö. 1981. On the criticisms made by Dr I.W.B. Nye regarding my two recent papers published in this journal in 1980. *Communications de la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université d'Ankara*, (C, Zoologie)**25**(2): 11–23.

Kyrki, J. 1983. *Roeslerstammia* Zeller assigned to Amphitheridae, with notes on the nomenclature and systematics of the family (Lepidoptera). *Entomologica Scandinavica*, **14**: 321–329.

Moriuti, S. 1972. Seven new species of Acrolepiidae from Japan and Formosa (Lepidoptera). *Kontyu*, **40**(4): 243–254.

Nye, I.W.B. & Fletcher, D.S. 1991. *The generic names of moths of the world*, vol. 6 (Microlepidoptera). xxix, 368 pp. Natural History Museum, London.

Stainton, H.T. 1854. *Insecta Britannica. Lepidoptera: Tineina*, viii, 313 pp., 10 pls. Reeve, London.

Toll, S. 1958. Neue Acrolepiidae. Beschreibung von vier neuen Arten aus der Sowjetunion. *Zeitschrift der Wiener Entomologischen Gesellschaft*, **43**(6): 84–89.

Zaguljaev, A.K. 1981. Acrolepiidae. Pp. 397–419 *in* Medvedev, G.S., *Opredelitel' nasekomyh evropejskoj casti SSSR*, vol. 4, part 2 (Lepidoptera). (Key to the identification of insects of the European part of the USSR). St Petersbourg.

Zeller, P.C. 1839. Versuch einer naturgemässen Eintheilung der Schaben. *Isis* (von Oken), **1839**(3): cols. 167–220.

Zeller, P.C. 1853. Verzeichniss der in den mittlern Odergegenden in geflügelten Zustande überwinternden Lepidoptera. *Entomologische Zeitung*, **14**(3): 82–86.